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Swine Farm Business Summary

1983

SOW WEANLING

PREFACE

The 1983 Nova Scotia Swine Farm Business Summary for the Sow-Weanling Enterprise is a synopsis of the business performance of Nova Scotia swine farms.

The farms used in this summary were not selected on a random sample basis. Instead, farmers volunteered their data for use in the summary. Since this is not a random sample selection of farms, care should be exercised in the use and interpretation of the results shown in the various tables of the summary.

Despite this limitation, farmers can compare their individual results with group average figures for farms with similar characteristics. Such comparison can provide the farm manager with useful information that can be used in management decisions. However, the best information is the farmers own records and comparison of these from one year to the next.

We gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of the swine producers who participated in this summary.

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INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Swine Farm Business Summary for the Sow-Weanling Enterprise is designed to provide bench-mark information that can be used to compare the financial strength and weakness of individual swine farms with similar characteristics. Farm business analysis is an important function of the farm manager-operator. When analyzing the farm business, you must ask meaningful questions regarding the costs, incomes, efficiencies and capital investment found in your business. This summary is designed to assist you with those questions and to provide you with basic information for comparison purposes. By identifying the strengths of your business and building on these, you should be able to enhance the profit picture of your farm business. By identifying the weaknesses of your business and taking corrective action, the profit picture should also be improved.

Standards of performance and business progress are matters of personal choice and family goal setting. Each farm situation will have a different set of goals or objectives - a different set of values that you feel must be met through the farm business. It is for each of you to identify these and then compare your performance in achieving these objectives.

There are several ways that you can compare your farm performance. These include:

- You can compare your performance this year to that of last year. This perhaps is the best comparison. Have you progressed in reaching the goals you have set for your farm business.
- You can compare your performance with group average data for farms of similar size and general characteristics. This report may be useful in this regard.
- You can compare your performance to that found by research - realizing that the research data was obtained under a special set of conditions.

RECEIPTS

Receipts from the sale of hogs accounted for 93.6 percent of Total Farm Receipts. Of this amount, weanling sales amounted to 90.8 percent, cull sows and boars 5.4 percent, market hogs 3.4 percent and other hogs 0.4 percent.

Total Farm Receipts averaged $101,767. on a per farm basis, or $810. on a per sow basis.

TABLE 1: RECEIPTS

ITEM	PER FARM	PER SOW
Weanlings	$ 86,501.	$ 688.
Market Hogs	3,275.	26.
Other Hogs	388.	3.
Cull Sows	5,112.	41.
Cull Boars	-0-	-0-
TOTAL HOG RECEIPTS	$ 95,275.	$ 758.
Subsidies	$ 1,632.	$ 13.
Other Income	4,860.	39.
TOTAL FARM RECEIPTS	$101,767.	$ 810.

EXPENSES

Purchased feed was the largest single expense item and accounted for 61.7 percent of Cash Expenses. In dollar terms, feed amounted to $401. on a per sow basis or $50,368. on a per farm basis.

Feed was followed by hired labor at 8.6 percent, non-hog expenses at 6.0 percent, utilities at 5.3 percent and swine purchased at 4.2 percent of Total Cash Expenses.

TABLE 2: EXPENSES

ITEM	PER FARM	PER SOW
Purchased Feed	$ 50,368.	$ 401.
Swine Purchased	3,263.	26.
Hired Labor	6,755.	54.
Bedding	467.	4.
Vet & Drugs	807.	6.
Hog Supplies	1,191.	9.
Marketing Costs	353.	3.
Utilities	4,172.	33.
Taxes	534.	4.
Insurance	1,086.	9.
Building Repairs	1,495.	12.
Machinery & Equipment Exp.	2,655.	21.
Auto Expense	567.	5.
Interest - Operating	1,422.	11.
Miscellaneous	520.	4.
Other Non-Hog Expenses	4,657.	37.
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES	$ 80,311.	$ 639.

INCOME SUMMARY

One of the key factors studied when analyzing a farm business is Income. In the table below, two (2) measures of income are summarized.

Net Cash Income refers to the difference between Farm Receipts and Cash Expenses. For these farms, Net Cash Income averaged $21,456. per farm or $171. on a per sow basis.

Net Farm Income is the difference between Farm Receipts and Cash Expenses with adjustments made for Inventory Change, Depreciation and Interest on Capital Loans. For these farms, Net Farm Income averaged $11,717. per farm or $93. per sow.

TABLE 3: INCOME SUMMARY

ITEM	PER FARM	PER SOW
Total Farm Receipts	$101,767.	$ 810.
Total Cash Expenses	80,311.	639.
NET CASH INCOME	$ 21,456.	$ 171.
Plus: Inventory Change	$ 2,464.	$ 20.
Less: Depreciation	8,035.	64.
Interest on Capital Loans	4,168.	33.
NET FARM INCOME	$ 11,717.	$ 94.

AVERAGE COST OF PORK PRODUCTION

For farms in this study, the average cost of producing pork was $.91 per pound.

Note that this cost figure does not include a value for operator labor or interest on equity. Instead, it is a measure of the cost at the Net Farm Income level. No amount has been added for what is traditionally called "Opportunity Costs".

TABLE 4: AVERAGE COST OF PORK PRODUCTION

ITEM		PER FARM	PER SOW
Total Farm Expenses		$ 92,514.	$ 736.
Plus: Inventory Change		-(2,464.)	-(20.)
Less: Cull Sales		5,112.	41.
Other Income		4,860.	39.
TOTAL COSTS		$ 80,078.	$ 637.
Total Pounds of Pork Produced	(lbs)	87,860	699
Average Cost of Production	($)	0.91	0.91

COST ANALYSIS

Purchased feed was the largest single cost item accounting for 54.4 percent of Total Cost. Feed was followed by Depreciation at 8.7 percent, Hired Labor at 7.3 percent, Non-Hog Expenses at 5.0 percent, and Interest on Capital Loans and Utilities both at 4.5 percent of Total Cost. Total Interest accounted for 6.0 percent of Total Cost when both Interest on Operating and Interest on Capital Loans are summed.

TABLE 5: COST ANALYSIS

ITEM	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Purchased Feed	54.4 %
Swine Purchased	3.5
Hired Labor	7.3
Bedding	0.5
Vet & Drugs	0.9
Hog Supplies	1.3
Marketing Costs	0.4
Utilities	4.5
Taxes	0.6
Insurance	1.2
Building Repairs	1.6
Machinery & Equipment Exp.	2.9
Auto Expense	0.6
Interest - Operating	1.5
Miscellaneous	0.6
Other Non-Hog Expenses	5.0
Depreciation	8.7
Interest - Loans	4.5
TOTAL	100.0 %

PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

The average number of sows maintained was 126 for farms in this summary. Each sow averaged 2.04 litters per year.

For each sow, 22.48 pigs were born and of these, 18.27 were weaned. Suckling mortality averaged 4.17 pigs or 18.5 percent of pigs born.

TABLE 6: PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

ITEM		PER FARM	PER SOW
Number of Sows		126	1
Number of Boars		6	.04
Number of Litters		256	2.04
Pigs Born		2,826	22.48
Pigs Born Alive		2,637	20.98
Pigs Weaned		2,297	18.27
Pigs Born per Litter		11.05	-
Pigs Born Alive per Litter		10.31	-
Pigs Weaned per Litter		8.98	-
Suckling Mortality	(#)	524	4.17
Suckling Mortality	(%)	18.54	-
Weanlings Sold		2,176	17.31
Gilts kept for Replacements		38	0.30
Market Hogs Sold		24	0.19
Other Hogs Sold		-	-
Inventory Change		8	0.06
Inventory Adjustment		43	0.34
Purchases		15	0.12
Feeder Hog Mortality	(#)	13	0.10
Feeder Hog Mortality	(%)	1	-

PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

A number of production coefficients provide additional information about the sow-weanling enterprise. Average weight per weanling sold was 33 pounds, while the average price received per weanling was $39.75.

Feed consumption per weanling produced averaged 2.4 kgs. of Creep. 13.93 Kgs. of Starter, 58.75 Kgs. of Sow & Boar Feed, for a total of 7,956 Kgs. of feed at a total cost of $22.04 per weanling.

Cull rate on sows averaged 34.3 percent and for each man equivalent of labor available, 82 sows were maintained.

TABLE 7: PRODUCTION ANALYSIS

ITEM	UNIT	PER FARM
Ave. Weight per Weanling Sold	(lbs)	33
Ave. Return per Weanling	($)	39.8
Sow Mortality	(%)	4.0
Cull Rate on Sows	(%)	34.3
Labor Man Equivalents	(#)	1.5
Sows Kept per Man Equivalent	(#)	82
Total Sales per Man Equivalent	($)	66,083
Weanlings Produced per Man Equivalent	(Kgs)	20,931
Creep per Weanling	(Kgs)	2.40
Creep Cost per Weanling	($)	1.11
Starter per Weanling	(Kgs)	13.93
Starter Cost per Weanling	($)	4.56
Creep & Starter per Weanling	(Kgs)	16.33
Creep & Starter Cost per Weanling	($)	5.66
Sow & Boar Feed per Weanling	(Kgs)	58.75
Sow & Boar Feed Cost per Weanling	($)	15.19
Total Feed per Weanling	(Kgs)	79.56
Total Feed Cost per Weanling	($)	22.04
Creep Cost per Tonne	($)	462.26
Starter Cost per Tonne	($)	327.02
Sow & Boar Feed Cost per Tonne	($)	258.62
Feed per Sow & Boar	(Kgs)	1018.79

SUMMARY

The 1983 Nova Scotia Farm Business Summary for Sow-Weanling operations provides basic information and statistics on the costs and returns associated with the sow-weanling enterprise on Nova Scotia farms. While not based on a statistically sound random sample of swine farms, the summary can be used with care to assist in the analysis of the swine enterprise by providing group average data for comparison purposes.

In reviewing the information contained in this summary, the following items can be noted:

- Average farm size measured in terms of sow numbers was 126.
- Average litters per sow was 2.04.
- Average pigs weaned per sow per year was 18.3.
- Average sales of weanlings per sow per year was 17.3.
- Average weanling sale weight was 33 pounds.
- Average feed consumed per weanling was 79.6 kilograms, including sow and boar feed.

In compiling data for this summary, extreme variation among farms was noted. This variation was observed in most items of receipts, costs and management factors.

Below, we outline a number of the variations.

- Net Farm Income had a range of $288. per sow between the highest
- and lowest Net Incomes on a per sow basis.
- Feed costs per sow had a range of $266.00.
- Feed cost as a percent of total costs varied between 76 and 44 percent.
- Kilograms of creep and starter feed per hog varied as much as 25.8 kilograms.
- Total feed fed per weanling varied as much as 59.7 kilograms.
- Pigs weaned per sow varied as much as 6 pigs per year.
- Sows kept per man equivalent had a range of 100 sows between the highest and lowest sows per man.

With such wide variation in many of the items of returns, costs and production factors, it is difficult to isolate specific characteristics that result in a profitable sow unit. It would appear, however, that a number of the key factors of production outlined above such as production per unit, cost control, efficient use of capital and labor, are of significant importance in determining the success of the farm unit.

Those operators who successfully combined these factors of production in the operation and management of their farm units achieved a return to their labor capital and management skills.